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(58) Field of Search

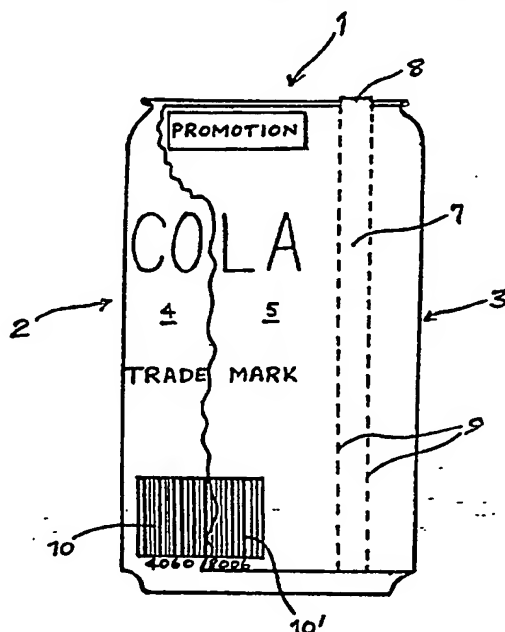
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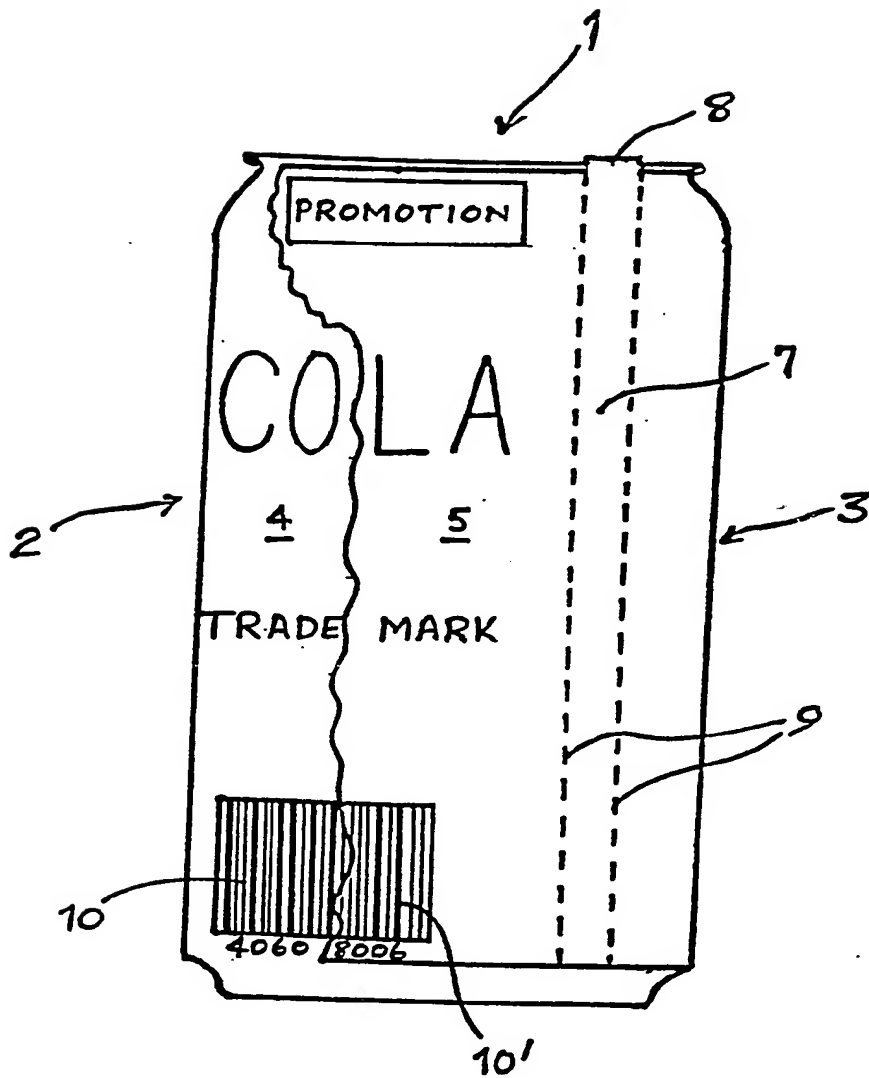
(54) Container with information-bearing wrapper

(57) A package (1) comprises a container (2) having regular information on an outer surface (4) thereof and a wrapper (3) extending at least partially over the outer container surface (4) and bearing information of which at least some is substantially identical to at least some of the regular information on the outer container surface (4). The wrapper (3) may be a heat-shrunk sleeve having a tear strip (7). Information on the wrapper (3) may be in register with corresponding information on the container surface (4), such as bar code 10' superimposed on bar code 10. The wrapper may bear information on its outer and/or inner surface and may be transparent. A separate information-carrying sheet may be sandwiched between the wrapper and container.



GB 2 280 656 A

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PACKAGE

DESCRIPTION

5 This invention relates to a package and is
 especially, but not exclusively, related to a retail
 package for point-of-sale display purposes comprising
 a can, bottle or other container bearing information
10 and which relates to, inter alia, the contents
 thereof. Such information usually includes
 descriptive matter relating to the contents of the
 can, bottle or other container, decorative matter, a
 bar code, a trade mark, a sell-by-date and/or other
15 matter relevant to the particular product and will be
 referred to as "regular information" hereinafter.

 The inventive package is particularly suitable as
 a promotional aid, as will be described in more detail
20 hereinbelow.

 Known retail cans of, say, beverages, for
 instance, carbonated drinks, such as cola drinks and
 the like, are generally made of a metallic material,
25 for example, steel or an aluminium alloy, and are
 printed with regular information on their outer
 cylindrical surfaces. The provision of information in
 addition to the regular information already printed on
 the cans for, say, a comparatively short period of
30 time for limited period promotional purposes, can be
 somewhat difficult and expensive to achieve, in that
 additional facilities for printing such additional
 information have to be provided on a short term basis.
 This results in additional expense in producing the
35 printed can, and, as a result, potentially higher
 retail costs.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a package which is more flexible and overcomes, or at least substantially reduces, the above-described disadvantage associated with existing beverage cans and other types of product-filled containers.

Accordingly, the invention provides a package comprising a container having regular information on an outer surface thereof and a wrapper extending at least partially over said outer surface and bearing information of which at least some is substantially identical to at least some of the regular information on the outer container surface.

The outer surface of the wrapper may be provided with such information and/or the inner surface of the wrapper may be so-provided, in which latter case, the wrapper may be transparent or semi-opaque, so that the information on the inner surface of the wrapper can be viewed therethrough.

Preferably, the regular information extends over substantially the whole of an outer surface of the container, in which case, the information which is substantially identical to at least some of that regular information and which is borne by the wrapper, may also extend substantially wholly thereover.

Preferably, substantially all the information borne by the wrapper is substantially identical to the regular information on the corresponding outer surface of the container.

The container may be in any suitable form, for example, a metallic, plastics or glass can bottle, cup

or beaker, or a box made of cardboard or the like, whose outer surface is printed with regular information relating to the contents thereof.

5 The wrapper is preferably attached to the container, optionally in intimate contact therewith, such that it extends over substantially the whole of the regular information on outer surface thereof. Preferably also, the wrapper is made of a synthetic
10 plastics material which may be heat-shrunk on to the corresponding outer surface of the container and its inner surface may be provided with further information, for example, relating to a promotion of the product involved. Alternatively, any synthetic
15 plastics wrapper may be adhered or otherwise attached to the corresponding surface of the container.

Also, and as a further alternative, the wrapper may be of paper which can be adhered to the
20 corresponding outer surface of the container or otherwise suitably attached thereto.

The wrapper preferably extends over the outer container surface in a continuous manner without any
25 overlapping portions, to provide a generally smooth outer surface for the package. However, in other circumstances, particularly if the wrapper extends only partially over the outer container surface, there may be a slight ridge between the wrapper edges and that container surface. Further, if there is an
30 overlap of portions of the wrapper, then there may also be a slight ridge between the free edge of the overlapping wrapper portion and the main portion of the wrapper in contact with the outer container
35 surface.

Although the wrapper is provided with information of which at least some is substantially identical to at least some of the regular information provided on the corresponding outer surface of the container, it
5 may also be provided on its outer and/or inner surface with further information relating to, say, a promotion of the product in question.

10 Additionally or alternatively, such further information and/or additional information may be included on a carrier, such as, a printed sheet, sandwiched between the outer surface of the container and the wrapper, of which at least part can be used as
15 a prize, token or redeemable voucher.

Also, the wrapper may be removable from the container by means of an integral tear strip preferably extending at least partially between opposed edges thereof, such as the top and bottom
20 thereof. However, other means for enabling or assisting in the removal of the wrapper may be employed.

At least part of the wrapper may be used as a
25 prize, token and/or redeemable voucher in respect of any promotion involved.

Because the wrapper extends at least partially, and preferably substantially wholly, over the outer
30 surface of the container on which the regular information is provided and has, preferably, on its outer surface, information of which at least some is substantially identical to at least some of the regular information on the outer surface of the
35 container, the presence of the wrapper is not immediately evident. This is particularly the case

when the wrapper extends over substantially the whole of the corresponding outer container surface and bears information which is a substantial replica of the regular information on that outer container surface.

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Advantageously, the outer container surface on which the regular information is provided, constitutes the side wall of the container which may be in the form of a can, bottle, cup, beaker or box or any other form of container.

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The container and wrapper are preferably preformed as separate components, with the wrapper being applied subsequently to the container, although in certain circumstances the wrapper and container may be formed together as a unitary package.

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In order that the invention may be more fully understood, a retail package in accordance therewith will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawing which is an elevational view of the package with part of a wrapper removed to reveal part of the corresponding outer printed surface of an associated container.

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Referring now to the drawing, a retail package indicated generally at 1, comprises a preformed container in the form of a regular can, indicated generally at 2, containing a carbonated drink, such as, a cola or the like. The can 2 is of the two-part type, namely, an aluminium body and an aluminium circular top (not shown) which is sealed thereto and has, say, a pull-ring associated with it for opening the can.

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The outer cylindrical surface 4 of the side wall

of the can 2 is printed with regular information relating to the contents of the can 2, for instance, details of the product involved, for example, the word "COLA", a trade mark indicated by the term "TRADE MARK" and a bar code 10, as well as a sell-by-date (not shown), decorative material (also not shown) and the like.

A wrapper indicated generally at 3, extends over substantially the whole of the outer cylindrical surface of the can 2. This wrapper 3 has been preformed from a synthetic plastics material which has been heat-shrunk on to the can 2 into intimate contact therewith, to provide a continuous and generally smooth outer surface for the package 1 which is substantially identical to the outer surface of the cylindrical side wall of the can 2.

The outer surface 5 of the wrapper 3 is printed with information which is a substantial replica of that printed on the cylindrical outer surface of the side wall of the can 2, namely, the word "COLA", a the term "TRADE MARK" and a bar code 10'. The outer wrapper surface 5 is also provided with further information relating to a short term promotion of the product, represented by the word "PROMOTION". This further information is not provided on the outer cylindrical side wall surface 4 of the can 2.

The wrapper 3 is heat shrunk on to the can 2 and the information printed on the outer wrapper surface 5 may or may not lie in substantial register with the corresponding regular information on the outer surface 4 of the can 2. In the drawing, only the letters "CO" of the word "COLA", the word "TRADE" of the term "TRADE MARK" and the left hand side of the bar code 10

can be seen, because the remaining letters "LA" of the word "COLA", the other word "MARK" of the term "TRADE MARK" and the right hand side of the bar code 10' are represented by those printed on the outer surface 5 of the wrapper 3.

The inner surface of the wrapper 3 may be provided with printed information (also not shown) relating to the short term promotion for the product, which information has been printed previously thereon and cannot be seen at point-of-sale.

A tear strip 7 extends between the upper and lower edges of the wrapper 3, with an extension 8 protruding just above the top or bottom of the can 2 for enhancing accessibility thereto. Also, the tear strip 7 is defined by a pair of parallel perforation lines 9, in a conventional manner.

In use of the retail package 1, a purchaser thereof is able to identify the product by the information printed on the outer surface 5 of the wrapper 3, as well as being able to recognise that a short term promotion of the product is in effect by viewing the further "PROMOTION" information printed on that outer surface 5.

After purchasing the product, a purchaser is able to remove the wrapper 3 attached to the can 2 by grasping the extension 8 and pulling it downwardly or upwardly with respect to the package 1, thereby removing the tear strip 7 and allowing the remainder of the wrapper 3 to be removed from the can 2. In this manner, the so-removed wrapper 3 can be used subsequently as a prize, token or voucher for redemption purposes or to relay information in connection with the promotion and

any printed information relating thereto on the inner surface of the wrapper 3 can also be read by the purchaser.

5 As indicated above, the inner surface of the wrapper 3 may or may not be printed with further promotional information.

10 In a modification of the embodiment of inventive package 1 described above, the heat-shrunk wrapper may be used to secure between it and the outer surface 4 of the can 2 a carrier in the form of a strip or sheet of, say, paper, bearing additional information relevant to the promotion or the promotional prize, token or voucher itself, as an alternative or in addition to such information being printed on the inner surface of the wrapper 3 or in addition to that printed on the outer surface 5 of the wrapper 3.

20 Although in the embodiments described above, the whole of the wrapper 3 is removable from the can 2, only a portion thereof may be so-removable, in which case, that removable portion may be defined by a suitably perforated line, such as, a square or circle, which can be torn from the remainder of the wrapper and which has any further information on its inner surface and/or on the outer surface 4 of the can 2.

30 Also, the information on the wrapper 3 which is a substantial replica of the regular information on the outer can surface 4, may be printed on the inner surface of the wrapper, in which case, the wrapper is transparent or semi-opaque, so that such information can be viewed and read from the exterior of the package 1.

Additional modifications may be made to the inventive package, for instance, means for enabling removal of the wrapper 3 other than the tear strip 7 described above and, also, the wrapper 3 may extend
5 over only a portion of the outer surface of the can 2.

It is to be appreciated that the inventive concept may be applied to other forms of container,
10 for instance, bottles, cups or beakers, whether made of glass or plastics or other suitable material, as well as boxes for retail display and sale.

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CLAIMS

1. A package comprising a container having regular information on an outer surface thereof and a wrapper extending at least partially over the outer container surface and bearing information of which at least some is substantially identical to at least some of the regular information on the outer container surface.
2. A package according to claim 1, wherein the outer and/or inner surface of the wrapper bears information of which at least some is substantially identical to at least some of the regular information on the outer container surface.
3. A package according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the wrapper is transparent or semi opaque.
4. A package according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein substantially all the information borne by the wrapper is substantially identical to the regular information on the corresponding outer surface of the container.
5. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the regular information extends over substantially the whole of an outer surface of the container.
6. A package according to claim 5, wherein the wrapper extends over substantially the whole of the outer container surface and the information which is substantially identical to at least some of the regular information on the outer container surface and which is borne by the wrapper, extends over substantially the whole of the wrapper.

7. A package according to any preceding claim wherein the outer and/or inner surface of the wrapper bears further information.
- 5 8. A package according to claim 7, wherein at least some of the further information relates to a promotion of the product associated with the package.
- 10 9. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the information borne by the wrapper of which at least some is substantially identical to at least some of the regular information on the outer container surface, lies in register with that regular information.
- 15 10. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the wrapper extends over the outer container surface in a continuous manner, to provide a generally smooth outer surface for the package.
- 20 11. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the wrapper has no overlapping portions.
- 25 12. A packaging according to any preceding claim, wherein the wrapper is in intimate contact with the outer container surface.
- 30 13. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein additional information is included on a carrier sandwiched between the outer surface of the container and the wrapper.
- 35 14. A package according to claim 13, wherein at least part of the additional information included on the carrier can be used as a prize, token and/or redeemable voucher.

15. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the wrapper is removable from the container by means of an integral tear strip.
- 5 16. A package according to claim 15, wherein the tear strip extends at least partially between opposed edges of the wrapper.
- 10 17. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the wrapper extends substantially wholly over the outer surface of the container on which the regular information is provided.
- 15 18. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the wrapper is of a synthetic plastics material heat-shrunk on to the corresponding outer surface of the container.
- 20 19. A package according to any of claims 1 to 17, wherein the wrapper is of paper.
- 25 20. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the wrapper is adhered to the corresponding outer surface of the container.
- 30 21. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein at least part of the wrapper can be used as a prize, token and/ or redeemable voucher.
- 35 22. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the outer container surface on which the regular information is provided, constitutes a side wall of the container.
23. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the container is a metallic, plastics or glass

can, bottle, cup or beaker or a box of cardboard or the like.

5 24. A package according to any preceding claim, wherein the container and wrapper are preformed as separate components, with the wrapper having been applied subsequently to the outer container surface.

10 25. A retail package according to any of claims 1 to 23, wherein the container and wrapper are formed as a unitary package.

15 26. A retail package substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

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- 14 -

Relevant Technical Fields

(i) UK Cl (Ed.M) B8C (CWPT1, CWS4), B8D (DCW21), B8F (FBG, FBX), G5C (CFF)

(ii) Int Cl (Ed.5) B65D 23/08, 25/20, 25/34, 25/36, 65/00, 65/02

Databases (see below)

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

(ii) ONLINE DATABASES: WPI

Search Examiner
STEPHEN SMITH

Date of completion of Search
3 OCTOBER 1994

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
1 to 26

Categories of documents

- X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step. P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.
- Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category. E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.
- A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. &: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages		Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 2194767 A	(UNILEVER) see lines 117 to 120 of page 1 and lines 33 to 46 of page 2	1,2,7,9,11 12,19,20 22,23,24
X	GB 2020633 A	(BYK) see lines 92 to 102 of page 1 and lines 8 to 18 of page 2	1,2,3,7,10 11,17,22,23 24
Y	GB 2006713 A	(CIBA-GEIGY) see whole document	13,14
X	US 5209367	(VAN MUSSCHER) see abstract and Figure 3	1,2,5,7,8,10 12,17,19,22 23,24
X	US 4509639	(THOMPSON) see lines 49 to 68 of column 7, line 63 of column 8 to line 7 of column 9 and lines 35 to 47 of column 9	1,2,3,7,8,10 12,17,19,22 23,24
X	US 4235341	(MARTIN) see lines 47 to 60 of column 3	1,2,10,12,17 22,23,25
X,Y	US 4181765	(HARMONY) see lines 43 to 60 of column 2	X:1,2,5,6,7 8,10,12,17 22,23,24 Y:13,14

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-15-

Continuation page

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to- claim(s)
X	US 3927484 (SPIEGEL) see whole document	1,2,3,5,7,8 10,11,12,15 16,18,21,22 23,24